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ONE MAN OF TRIO SOUGHT AS SLAYER OF RECTOR HALL

Continued from First Page.

Mason, Essex county detective, a chief assistant to Mr. Mott.

If Hall was killed in self-defense, then the case assumes an entirely new aspect and it becomes evident that the actual killer was, as Mrs. Gibson has said, a man and not a woman, as it is highly improbable that a woman would have been strong enough to wrest a gun from Hall, who weighed one hundred and eighty pounds. But the killing of Mrs. Mills in such case clearly resulted from fear that she would disclose what had taken place, and the cutting of her throat is unexplained and apparently unexplainable.

In connection with the possible murders, detectives hold that there are three men in New Brunswick who answer Mrs. Gibson's general description and might have been connected with the crime. This theory eliminated Henry Stevens, of course, as he does not live here. The three men in mind are known, of course.

Poker Game One Man's Alibi.

As to one of the men who have been mentioned frequently, it may be said that he is eliminated for the reason that he was in the city on the night of 11 o'clock at night on September 14 until 1 o'clock in the morning, and has a perfect alibi as to the earlier part of the evening. He is one of the men who have been connected more times than can be enumerated with the green card which has figured from time to time.

While the probable action of the special deputy attorney general is well understood, there is a disposition, even in official circles, to believe that the case is a weak one at best, and that though it may get by a Grand Jury there will be little possibility of a conviction when it comes to trial. While the case remains in anything like its present state there is always a possibility that an unforeseen development will change the whole outlook.

Mrs. Paul Bonner of 829 Park avenue, New York city, called on Mrs. Hall today, accompanied by Mrs. Frank Voorhees of 85 Griffith street, Jersey City, and spent several hours at the Hall home. Both these women are sisters of Hall and have visited Mrs. Hall several times since the tragedy, spending several hours with her at the home here. They both were deep mourning and consented to be interviewed by reporters at the Hall home before they left for home tonight.

Hall's Sisters Remain Loyal.

Mrs. Bonner, speaking of the case, said: "Knowing all the circumstances as they stand today, I have the most implicit faith in our sister, Mrs. Hall, and confidence in our brother, Mr. Hall, who formerly made her home in New Brunswick, is right with us in this faith in both. We feel that the whole thing is a horrible mistake that could be cleared up if our brother were here to explain it. My sister and I have been with Mrs. Hall as much as possible trying to help her over these days."

"When I say a mistake has been made I may not be using the right word. What I mean is that an unexplained complexity of circumstances leaves the Hall family in this situation."

"Do you still feel this confidence despite the letters and the diary which were published?" she was asked. "The immediate reply was: 'I don't believe they are authentic. I can't say any more than that.'"

She continued to speak of the Hall's domestic happiness and of their life together as she knew it. "Mr. and Mrs. Hall were absolutely happy from the beginning of their married life up to the last," she said. "Everything they did they did together and were remarkably contented in their home life."

Mrs. Voorhees here interrupted, and said: "Edward called to see his mother every day when he lived in New Brunswick. He was a devoted son, brother and husband. Our mother lived downtown, at the Bayard, a family hotel, and Mr. Hall would call there every afternoon, and nearly always was accompanied by his wife. They would take long drives together. In fact, Mr. Hall called on his mother on the afternoon of Thursday, September 14. His manner was the same as ever, and he took mother over to Highland Park in the automobile, so that she could take some clothing to some poor people over there, which in which there were a number of children."

Happy on Trip to Maine.

Mrs. Bonner then went on to tell of the last summer spent by the Halls in Maine, and said:

"Their last summer in the country together in Maine was a particularly happy one," Mrs. Voorhees interjected. "Yes, it was on the 20th of July that Mr. and Mrs. Hall came to my home in Jersey City. On the eleventh anniversary of their marriage we had a cake for them, and a very happy time."

Here reporters asked Mrs. Bonner if she had heard of the fact that Hall had told his wife they would be gone only three Sundays, as if she knew that the rector had quarreled over the cutting down of the usual vacation time from four weeks. Mrs. Voorhees said:

"They told me that they were going to take only three weeks' vacation, as they wanted to give the servants a vacation of that length, and not four weeks. Then they wanted to return and open up their home."

Regarding the telegrams sent by Hall to a woman in New York, saying that he would "be at your apartment late this evening," Mrs. Bonner stated that she had received several telegrams from her brother in the past, and that she believed he had sent one either on July 31 or August 1, but that if she remembered correctly, it had to do with some plans which his mother had made. Both of the sisters left New Brunswick on an afternoon train.

Mott and Beckman Confer.

The developments in the Hall-Mills case here today were confined to a short conference between Prosecutors Mott and Beckman in Somerville, and the information from official sources that the investigators are still looking for the gun with which the slaying was done, and for the automobile, which they believe carried some of the principals, to the scene of the finding of the bodies. There was no meeting of the Somerset county Grand Jury, and it is unlikely that that body will be called for some days.

To quote Prosecutor Mott as regards the status of the case at present, and the possibility of either an arrest or indictment by the Grand Jury: "Sooner or later all homicide cases in New Jersey reach the Grand Jury." He refused to make any other comment

on the matter of an arrest. He remained in conference all morning with Prosecutor Beckman, and with Supreme Court Justice Bergen. At the close of this morning Mott admitted they had been discussing the case, but refused to make any further statement.

Lieut. Detective James F. Mason spent some time in New Brunswick today, starting on the 4:24 train for Newark, with the local statement to reporters that he would "call it a day." Just what his activities were he did not say, but it is understood that he passed considerable time checking up minor details of the case that have appeared in certain testimony taken before he and Mott were brought into the matter.

One of Mott's aids said today that the case was not at a standstill by any means and that they are well convinced the slayers of Hall and Mrs. Mills went to the scene of the crime in an automobile and that they hope through a process of elimination to discover the particular car. They have more than one description of the car in question and admitted that it may take several days to locate the machine. The matter of the Hall automobiles is also being considered and investigated again and the investigators are endeavoring to establish definitely whether the Hall cars were out at any time on the night of September 14, between the time of the rector's disappearance and the arrival of Mrs. Hall at her home some time about 2 o'clock the following morning.

"This is one of the matters that has been holding up the presentation of the case to the Grand Jury," this investigator said. He added that the identity of the car is definitely established a lot will have been accomplished and action may be expected to follow.

Hunting for Hall's Gun.

Mott and his investigating staff have arrived at the conclusion that the slaying was done with Hall's own gun and today was spent in trying to check up on that phase of the case. The identity of the car is definitely established a lot will have been accomplished and action may be expected to follow.

"It is not unlikely that the murder was a plain case of self-defense," this investigator said here by Mott's aid today. This rather changes the general line of reasoning which the prosecutors have been following for six weeks.

"Have the authorities any one who can identify the murderer?" Mason was asked today. He replied, "No, they have not."

This statement, coming on the heels of the previous statements from both Mason and Mott that they were fully confident the story told by Mrs. Gibson was "entirely credible," shows a more conservative attitude than the assurances given last week. Yet in spite of this statement made by Mason both he and Mott today reiterated that they had the same confidence in the Gibson statement as before.

"We are still looking for people who were at the scene of the murder illegitimately," he said. When asked if he referred to a couple that had been mentioned previously as corroborating the Gibson story, he admitted that he meant a couple, but stated that he would not divulge their identities, although the authorities know who they are. He said that names of the couple have never been mentioned in

the case thus far and that every effort was being made by the authorities to prevent them from becoming known.

The authorities stated today that they attach no significance to any of the remarks made by Sigourney Smith, a grave digger who boards with Mrs. A. C. Fralcy, whose home overlooks the crab apple tree where the two bodies were found. It has been established that Smith was home and in bed asleep at the time of the shooting and knew nothing of it.

The story of Mrs. Gibson still holds good in the minds of Mott and Mason and the other authorities, they stated positively today.

Mott was asked: "Do you doubt Mrs. Gibson's story?" He answered: "I am not going to throw any bouquets or aspersions, and I haven't any reason to doubt her story. The case stands as it is."

According to Mason the description given of the man he saw at the scene of the shooting, would fit three persons known locally, but he would not reveal who they were. It was stated also that the theory of self-defense as far as the slaying of Hall is concerned, is being followed closely, and that it fits in well with certain evidence which heretofore the authorities did not attach much significance. The killing of Mrs. Mills, however, they believe was done deliberately and probably to prevent any possibility of her telling about the slaying and killing of the rector.

Mrs. Gibson took a hand at shooting today, and fired both barrels of a shotgun in the general direction of several photographers who had ventured too near her house on the pig farm. As the men were rather slow about leaving her premises at her order, she knelt in the doorway and fired at them, but did not hit any one. They drove rapidly away and confined their talks with her to telephone calls.

Why Mrs. Gibson Shot.

When questioned about the shooting, Mrs. Gibson said: "Yes, I shot at them and I am going to get some of them yet. They come out here all the time and I am tired of it."

Then she complained that untrue stories about her had been printed and that she doesn't want any notoriety. She was questioned this evening over the telephone regarding the relationship between herself and William Easton, known as Willie, who has heretofore been known as her son. She said:

"William Easton is the son of Mrs. Jessie May Easton, my sister, and is my nephew. Jessie May Easton is a nurse, and also has a daughter Alice, eighteen years old, who is also married and does not live here. My sister is away on cases most of the time, but when she is in town she lives here with me. William H. Easton is her husband, not mine, and he is the father of Willie and Alice Easton."

Mrs. Gibson then stated that her own maiden name was Mary Jane Eidelstein, and stated that she had come to New Brunswick from Trenton in 1901 and had lived here ever since that time. Her husband died on her farm in 1909, she said, after an attack of pneumonia.

List in Postal Directory.

As against this story of Mrs. Gibson's as to her relationship to William H. Easton and Willie stands the fact that the local postal directory states that there are only William E. Easton, William Easton, Arthur Easton and Mary Easton and Jane Gibson listed at that

point on that route, and makes no mention of any Jessie May Easton.

Considerable interest was evinced today in what appeared to be another crowd in the murder case in a small key turned over to the authorities by Peter Remsing of New Brunswick, who said that he had found it on the scene of the murder, within a few feet of the spot at which the bodies were found. He said the reason he had not turned it in to the Prosecutor's office before was that he feared it would go unnoticed. It was discovered this evening that the key was the property of Frank Danberry of 68 Remsen avenue, a fifteen year old student at the Middlesex County Vocational School. He stated that he had lost it some time about September 14, and as the school is on Easton avenue and not far from the Phillips Farm its appearance there is accounted for. It is the key to a school locker.

The authorities to-night also said that a brooch that had been turned in as having been found near the Phillips Farm was of no value as a clue and had been disregarded.

HENRY STEVENS BACK FROM HIS HUNTING TRIP

Special Dispatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD. LAVALLETTE, N. J., Oct. 31.—Henry Stevens, brother of Mrs. Edward W. Hall, of New Brunswick, whose husband was killed with Mrs. Eleanor Mills on September 14, returned to his home here tonight after a duck shooting trip in his boat at Cormorant Point, Barnegat Bay, two miles from here.

Two State troopers who came to Lavallette on October 21 with orders to watch the house of Mr. Stevens, received orders last night to return to Trenton. Before they left they said they did not know why they had been ordered back, and for the first time since their arrival they admitted being State troopers. When they first came here they posed as cigar salesmen. They spent most of the time strolling back and forth on the beach and watching the Stevens home.

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